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V CORPS MEDIC ARRIVES IN KUWAIT JUST IN TIME TO SAVE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE FROM CHOKING

1st Infantry Division Artillery release

CAMP DOHA, Kuwait — Spc. Elspeth Barnett arrived here just in time to save Lonnie Allen's life.

Recently returned from Forward Operating Base Summerall, Iraq, combat medic Barnett was used to employing her skills to treat injured Soldiers and Iraqi civilians.

Over the course of the last nine months, she provided emergency medical care to nearly 100 trauma patients, ranging from car bomb victims to Soldiers suffering from gunshot wounds. However, the San Diego native did not expect to have to use her medical expertise during her time here.

But just days after her arrival with her unit -- Headquarters Battery of V Corps' 1st Infantry Division Artillery -- Barnett did just that.



COURTESY 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION ARTILLERY
Spc. Elspeth Barnett, a medic with V Corps' 1st Infantry Division Artillery, has been recommended for a medal for saving the life of a Department of Defense civilian employee shortly after her arrival at Camp Doha, Kuwait.

While having lunch with several other Soldiers from her unit in the camp dining facility, Barnett noticed a man sitting at the end of her table appeared to be having trouble breathing. Recognizing the danger, she immediately went to his aid. She asked if he needed assistance and received no reply. Instead the man responded by placing his hand across his neck to indicate he was choking.

Barnett launched into action, delivering the Heimlich maneuver to the stranger, later identified as Allen, a Department of Defense civilian employee.

Her quick reactions dislodged a foreign object from Allen's airway and restored his ability to breathe. Barnett then turned him over to the care of local Navy medics for evaluation.

Barnett has been recommended for the Army Commendation Medal for her quick thinking and lifesaving actions.

The two-year veteran of the 1st Infantry Division plans to marry after her return to Germany, and is considering several career opportunities, including applying for the Army Green to Gold program and training as a nurse.

